

BRIEF	Media Analysis	
Prepared for:	Ottawa Police Service	
Prepared by:	Navigator	February 7, 2022

Overview

Key themes mentioned in traditional and social media today include more action from police on the ground, Chief Sloly indicating he will not step down, and the requests for more supports.

Navigator conducted a scan and analysis of relevant media, social media, and political commentary following the announcement. The following brief contains key takeaways as well as the top stories between 7:00 AM EST and 4:30PM EST.

Key Takeaways

- Coverage of the protest continues to dominate Canadian media with 632 mentions of the protests in Ottawa and 518 mentions of the Ottawa Police.
- The narrative has changed from yesterday as reporters indicate there is more action being taken and many reports include Chief Sloly's quote "We are turning up the heat in every way we possibly can."
- On social media, roughly two thirds of identifiable posts shared today included one of either gas, fuel or diesel within the post as the Police work to confiscate fuel from the convoy.

Mainstream Media

The summaries below are notable online and print media coverage following the press conference by Ottawa police. The article below provides an overview of the key themes of coverage.

Online & Print

CTV News. [Ottawa under 'siege,' officials say, as mayor asks for more help](#). February 7, 2022

- The article reports that Ottawa is in a state of emergency as the trucker protest continues to paralyze parts of the nation's capital and frustrated downtown residents take their case to court.
- The residents are asking for an injunction to be issued to prevent truckers parked on the city streets from honking all day and night.
- Paul Champ, an Ottawa lawyer who is representing Li and the other residents in the class-action suit, told CTV News Channel Monday that the suit is really focused on the trucks' air horns.

- Sunday night, the Ottawa Police Service moved in a show of force to cut off fuel supplies from the “Freedom Convoy” participants.
- The police reported that seven people were arrested and more than 100 tickets were issued by Sunday evening.

Ottawa Citizen. [Egan: With fresh reinforcements, finally some pushback from police](#). February 7, 2022

- Columnist Kelly Egan says, “Like many things we’ve heard from Ottawa police Chief Peter Sloly, it wasn’t entirely clear Friday what he was talking about.”
- It’s certainly true there were more police officers in the “red zone” around Parliament Hill than last weekend.
- There was a quite remarkable “special” meeting of the Ottawa Police Services Board on Saturday. Part of board member Carol Anne Meehan’s frustration, no doubt, is Sloly’s habit of donning his professor hat and giving wordy, off-point answers about lacking the correct “justice system framework” or absent “multi-lateral agreements” between governments and some unhelpful blather about an outdated Police Services Act.
- The good news, though, and maybe Sloly should have been more clear about this, is that actual enforcement is beginning to happen and there is, no doubt, a plan being worked on to tighten the perimeter on the core group of trucking protesters.
- And Sunday morning brought news the police have, in fact, been doing more than passively patrolling.
- The force reports that, since Saturday morning, more than 450 tickets have been written for violations related to the trucker protest, which has now been going on for 10 days.

CTV News Ottawa. [Ottawa police chief says he won't resign as trucker protest drags on](#). February 7, 2022

- The article reports that Ottawa’s police chief says he has no plans to resign amid criticism of his handling of the trucker protests that have occupied the city’s downtown for more than a week.
- “Absolutely none,” Chief Peter Sloly said when Newstalk 580 CFRA’s Leslie Roberts asked whether he has any plans to step down.
- On Monday, Sloly said police could not act more aggressively until they had the necessary manpower.
- When Roberts asked Sloly who dropped the ball in managing the demonstration, Sloly said no one has.
- “This is an unprecedented situation. There’s no plan for this. We are literally trying to understand what it is, make real-time changes, get the resources necessary and adjust.”

CTV News Ottawa. [City of Ottawa increasing fines to 'Freedom Convoy' protesters for idling, noise](#). February 7, 2022

- The article reports the City of Ottawa has asked the Chief Justice of Ontario to increase the value of fines being issued to protesters with the “Freedom Convoy” demonstration.
- Earlier Jim Watson said he has suggested to federal ministers that a mediator could be “an honest broker on both sides to try to find some common ground, if that’s possible.”
- On Sunday, Watson declared a state of emergency due to the ongoing demonstration, giving the city the “administrative tool” to cut red tape in the procurement policy.
- Watson told CTV News Ottawa police are now taking a “more aggressive stand.”

- "We also need more police," said Watson. "We'll get a rundown of the exact number that the chief is requiring. It's not dozens, it's hundreds - we have to go at this much more aggressively."
- Ottawa's police chief admitted the force doesn't have enough resources to address the situation.
- Ottawa police chief Peter Sloly told city council he was seeking a major surge in resources, requesting 1,800 police officers and civilian staff to help manage the ongoing demonstration and occupation downtown.
- The Ottawa Police Services Board approved special constable status for 257 RCMP officers to assist with policing during the demonstration. Police said they have received 100 Ontario Provincial Police officers to assist with the demonstrations.

CBC. [Police raid on Ottawa protest camp is strongest show of enforcement yet.](#) February 7, 2022

- The article reports dozens of heavily armed police officers descended Sunday night on the baseball stadium parking lot that's been serving as a staging area for the protesters in the downtown core.
- Police removed vehicles and at least one tanker of fuel that was stored at the Coventry Road lot. Ottawa police later announced they had arrested two people at the site, with other arrests elsewhere that day linked to protest activity.
- Ottawa police said Sunday they would be stopping these deliveries. Protesters say they plan to continue to bring cans of fuel downtown.
- Police have conceded, in retrospect, allowing trucks to park at the city-owned RCGT Park east of downtown was a key error in what they call an unprecedented protest.
- A number of councillors have been vocal in their criticism that the police need to be shown to be enforcing the law and Sunday night's clear show of power will likely be well-received.

The Globe and Mail. [Amid criticism, Ottawa Police chief says his service is turning up heat on protesters, but needs more resources.](#) February 7, 2022

- The article reports Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly, who is facing mounting criticism from residents amid continuing protests in Ottawa, said Monday that his service is turning up the heat in every way it can while he maintained that more resources will be required to respond to prolonged demonstrations in the nation's capital.
- Officers stepped up their attempt to choke off the protest's supplies by removing fuel tankers from a support centre set up by demonstrators in a baseball-stadium parking lot in Ottawa's east end.
- He added that as the service gets access to more resources, it can do more, adding this is why officers could do what they did on Sunday night to the scale that they did.

Global News. [Trucker protest: Ottawa police call for more personnel to 'regain control' of the city.](#) February 7, 2022

- The article reports that Chief Peter Sloly says he needs 1,800 more personnel from provincial and federal sources to sustain a push started over the weekend to rout the so-called "freedom convoy" from the city as the demonstration stretches into its 11th day.
- He said Monday that, thanks to an influx of OPP and RCMP resources received over the weekend, officers can now go "on the offensive" to put an end to the trucker protest.

- Ottawa police announced over the weekend that they would begin cracking down on numerous offences, including threatening to arrest anyone bringing “material supports” — including gasoline refills — to the trucker convoy.
- There were also a handful of arrests made, charges laid, and more than 60 criminal investigations underway in connection with the protest, according to police.
- Sloly also called for increased support from other levels of government in order to put an end to the demonstration.
- “We are making significant progress,” Sloly said, but “we need more resources to drive those successes even further.”

Reuters. 'Turning up the heat': Police seize fuel in attempt to break up Ottawa protest. February 7, 2022

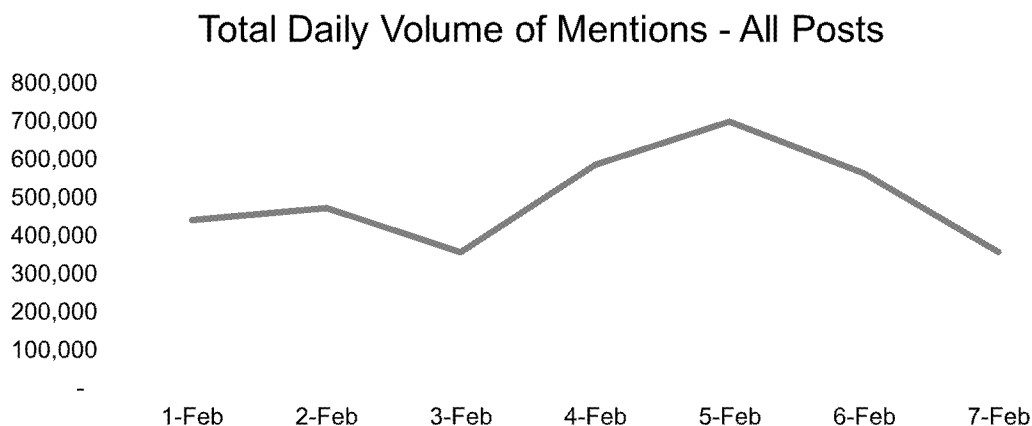
- The article reports that Ottawa police have seized thousands of litres of fuel and removed an oil tanker as part of a crackdown to end an 11-day-old protest against the federal government's health measures and vaccine mandates, police said on Monday.
- “We are turning up the heat in every way we possibly can,” Ottawa Police Chief Peter Sloly told reporters. “We are asking for a major push of resources to come in the next 72 hours.”
- Political and policing leaders describe the protest as a siege with Sloly saying the occupation has gone beyond anything he can adequately deal with.
- Police began removing gas and fuel supplies at a logistics encampment set up by protesters, after the city's mayor declared a state of emergency on Sunday.

Social Media

To capture and analyze the social media conversation of the protest and the Ottawa Police Service's response more accurately, this scan categorizes social media posts into one of two categories: *All Posts*, which includes all social media posts related to the truckers' protest in Ottawa and related protests in Canada, and *Ottawa Police* posts, which are posts related to the protests, that also include mention of the Ottawa Police.

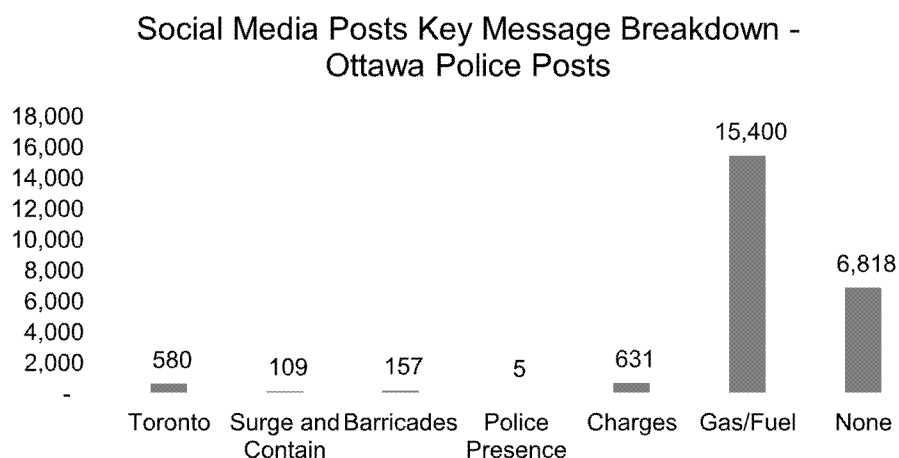
Volume

The graph below shows the hourly social media volume for all social media posts originating in Canada related to the trucker protests. Volume of social media posts increased throughout the week last week and peaked on February 5 and has since declined.



Sentiment

Posts mentioning gas, fuel, diesel, and other related terms have significantly increased today, while other key messages have been featured less prominently. Roughly two-thirds of identifiable social media posts shared today included one of either gas, fuel, or diesel within the post.



Engagement

The chart below outlines the top news stories regard the Ottawa police and their engagement on social media.

Article	Outlet	Engagement
	<i>CTV News Ottawa</i>	Facebook Engagement 1 Twitter Shares 0 Reddit Engagements 0 Total 15
	<i>Ottawa Citizen</i>	Facebook Engagement 2.2K Twitter Shares 40 Reddit Engagements 0 Total 2.3K
	<i>CTV News Ottawa</i>	Facebook Engagement 1.8K Twitter Shares 74 Reddit Engagements 0 Total 1.9K
	<i>CTV News Ottawa</i>	Facebook Engagement 368 Twitter Shares 75 Reddit Engagements 351 Total 794
	<i>CBC</i>	Facebook Engagement 886 Twitter Shares 204 Reddit Engagements 53 Total 1.1K
	<i>The Globe and Mail</i>	Facebook Engagement 139 Twitter Shares 6 Reddit Engagements 0 Total 145
	<i>Global News</i>	Facebook Engagement 1.6K Twitter Shares 42 Reddit Engagements 114 Total 1.8K
	<i>Reuters</i>	Facebook Engagement 347 Twitter Shares 2 Reddit Engagements 0 Total 349

The graphic below shows the most engaged with posts for All Posts and for Ottawa Police posts. For Ottawa Police specific posts, the most prominent storyline is the decision to cut off fuel supply from the protestors, and for All Posts related to the protest, coverage continues to come mostly from right-wing commentators about the protests in general.

Most Engaged With Posts – Ottawa Police

REDACTED

-Ottawa police are now confiscating fuel from the Freedom Convoy.

-The city has imposed a "state of emergency", citing fraudulent reports of violence.

-GoFundMe shut down the organizers fundraiser, citing a "violation of terms".

All of this for a peaceful demonstration...



7:06 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

932 Retweets 52 Quote Tweets 2,274 Likes

REDACTED

Canada [REDACTED]

Ottawa police are removing fuel from the freedom convoy trucks in Ottawa.

Not exactly the tolerant, liberal and progressive values that Justin Trudeau claims to advocate.

#FreedomConvoy
#TruckersForFreedom
#Canada



From @brianlilley

2:51 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

484 Retweets 38 Quote Tweets 1,394 Likes

REDACTED

Update Thread on #FreedomConvoyCanada2022 + what's happening in Ottawa w/my fellow Road Warriors, The City, Feds, and out here in the media space.

First off - Last night Ottawa Police showed up at the community kitchen named 'Coventry' set up by truckers + their supporters

1/

8:18 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

338 Retweets 57 Quote Tweets 1,023 Likes

REDACTED

"Ottawa police would be breaking the law if police attempt to intimidate or arrest people who bring food or other supplies to truckers "

jcct.ca/ottawa-police-...

PLEASE RE-TWEET!

#TruckersForFreedom2022 #FreedomConvoy2022
#smallfringeminority @clif_high @MorigeauJanine



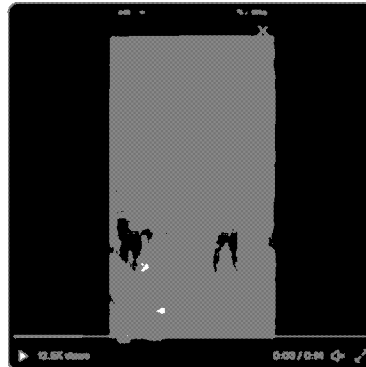
Protesters take to highway and shut not only stop at home and food coming in Saturday in a protest in Ottawa against COVID-19 restrictions continue into its second week. (Photo: The Canadian Press)

10:48 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter Web App

280 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 536 Likes

REDACTED

Can anyone on location confirm that Ottawa police are taking fuel intended for the truckers? Please contact us if you have photos or video. info@jcct.ca



12:13 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter Web App

280 Retweets 18 Quote Tweets 536 Likes

REDACTED

SOS: Ottawa declares state of emergency over trucker convoy, but make no mistake -- this national embarrassment falls squarely on shoulders of Mayor Jim Watson and Police Chief Peter Stoly bit.ly/3J8hRim Via @brianlilley



8:12 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Echoes

271 Retweets 38 Quote Tweets 702 Likes

Most Engaged With Posts – All Protest Posts

REDACTED

Reports that 50% of @OttawaPolice have tendered their resignation and Canadian Armed forces reportedly vow allegiance to the people.

9:18 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

6,121 Retweets · 1,159 Quote Tweets · 29.7K Likes

REDACTED

I would rather live in a country run by truckers and farmers than a country run by journalists and academics

11:03 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter Web App

6,476 Retweets · 282 Quote Tweets · 34.4K Likes

REDACTED

We need truckers and farmers a whole lot more than we need journalists

6:48 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter Web App

5,881 Retweets · 247 Quote Tweets · 37.4K Likes

REDACTED

I hear truckers like cake. So I spent my weekend baking and packaging more than a dozen cakes with love. Enjoy, @FreedomConvoy22!

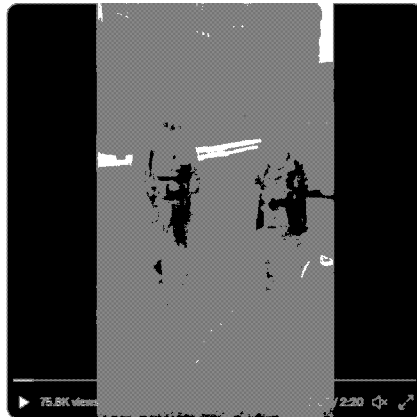


12:04 PM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

2,816 Retweets · 242 Quote Tweets · 14.2K Likes

Unacceptable Boreen
@canmericanized

Ottawa Police arrest and take away an elderly man for failing to identify himself. Noted that officer failed to identify himself and provide badge number when asked.



From Action Ottawa

1:31 PM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

2,864 Retweets · 631 Quote Tweets · 4,362 Likes

REDACTED

UPDATE: Free speech alternative GiveSendGo has now raised over \$4,000,000 to the freedom truckers.

11:14 AM · Feb 7, 2022 · Twitter for Android

5,635 Retweets · 189 Quote Tweets · 25.5K Likes